

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. A method of retrieving data, comprising:
  - waiting for a predefined interval of time;
  - retrieving a first quantity of data from a remote entity after the predefined interval;
  - and
  - redefining the interval of time in accordance with a predefined function.

2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:
  - waiting for the redefined interval of time; and
  - retrieving a second quantity of data from the remote entity after the redefined interval of time.

3. The method of claim 1, and wherein the retrieving the first quantity of data includes deleting the first quantity of data at the remote entity.

4. The method of claim 1, and wherein:
  - retrieving the first quantity of data defines a retrieval quantity; and
  - redefining the interval of time in accordance with the predefined function includes:
    - dividing the predefined interval of time by the retrieval quantity to define a data creation period; and
    - multiplying the data creation period by a predefined quantity to redefine the interval of time.

5. The method of claim 4, and wherein the predefined quantity is defined as a predefined optimum retrieval quantity.

6. The method of claim 4, and wherein the predefined quantity is defined as definable retrieval quantity.

7. The method of claim 4, and wherein the predefined quantity is defined as a minimum file retrieval count determined in accordance with a predefined optimization rule.

1       8.     The method of claim 7, and wherein the predefined optimization formula is  
2 defined as:

3             optimum file retrieval count = ((optimum retrieval packet size – overhead) / file  
4 size).

5

6       9.     The method of claim 1, and wherein retrieving the first quantity of data  
7 from the remote entity is performed by way of the Internet.

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9       10.    The method of claim 1, and wherein the predefined function includes:  
10             dividing the predefined interval of time by a quantity corresponding to the first  
11 quantity of data to define a data creation period; and

12             multiplying the data creation period by a predefined quantity to redefine the  
13 interval of time.

14

15       11.    A data handling system, comprising:  
16             a remote entity configured to store data;  
17             a local entity coupled in data communication with the remote entity, the local  
18 entity configured to:  
19                 wait for a predefined interval of time;  
20                 retrieve a first quantity of data from the remote entity after the predefined  
21 interval of time; and  
22                 redefine the interval of time in accordance with a predefined function.

23

24       12.    The data handling system of claim 11, and wherein the local entity is  
25 further configured to:  
26             wait for the redefined interval of time; and  
27             retrieve a second quantity of data from the remote entity after the redefined  
28 interval of time.

1       13. The data handling system of claim 11, and wherein:  
2       the first quantity of data defines a retrieval quantity; and  
3       the local entity is further configured such that the predefined function includes:  
4               dividing the predefined interval of time by the retrieval quantity to define a  
5               data creation period; and  
6               multiplying the data creation period by a predefined quantity to redefine  
7               the interval of time.

9       14. The data handling system of claim 13, and wherein the local entity is  
10      further configured such that the predefined quantity is defined by a predefined optimum  
11      retrieval quantity.

13       15. The data handling system of claim 13, and wherein the local entity is  
14      further configured such that the predefined quantity is selectively re-definable in  
15      response to an input.

17       16. The data handling system of claim 13, and wherein the local entity is  
18      further configured such that the predefined quantity is defined as an optimum file  
19      retrieval count determined in accordance with a predetermined optimization formula.

21       17. The data handling system of claim 16, and wherein the local entity is  
22      further configured such that the predetermined optimization formula is defined as:  
23               optimum file retrieval count = ((optimum retrieval packet size – overhead) / file  
24               size).

26       18. The data handling system of claim 11, and wherein the remote entity is  
27      further configured to delete the first quantity of data at the remote entity in response to  
28      retrieving the first quantity of data.

30       19. The data handling system of claim 11, and wherein the local entity  
31      includes a data storage device configured to store the first quantity of data in  
32      correspondence to the retrieval of the first quantity of data from the remote entity.

34       20. The data handling system of claim 11, and wherein the local entity is  
35      coupled in data communication with the remote entity by way of the Internet.

1        21. A computer-accessible storage media including an executable program  
2 code, the program code configured to cause a processor to:

3            wait for a predefined interval of time;  
4            retrieve a first quantity of data after the predefined interval of time; and  
5            redefine the interval of time in accordance with a predefined function.

6  
7        22. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 21, and wherein the  
8 program code is further configured to cause the processor to:

9            wait for the redefined interval of time; and  
10          retrieve a second quantity of data after the redefined interval of time.

11  
12       23. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 21, and wherein the  
13 program code is further configured such that the predefined function causes the  
14 processor to:

15            determine a retrieval quantity corresponding to the first quantity of data;  
16            divide the predefined interval of time by the retrieval quantity to define a data  
17 creation period; and  
18            multiply the data creation period by a predefined quantity to redefine the interval  
19 of time.

20  
21       24. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 23, and wherein the  
22 program code is further configured to causes the processor to re-define the predefined  
23 quantity in response to an input.

24  
25       25. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 23, and wherein the  
26 program code is further configured to cause the processor to determine the predefined  
27 quantity as an optimum file retrieval count determined in accordance with a  
28 predetermined optimization formula.

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30       26. The computer accessible storage media of claim 25, and wherein the  
31 program code is further configured such that the predetermined optimization formula is  
32 defined as:

33            optimum file retrieval count = ((optimum retrieval packet size – overhead) / file  
34 size).

1        27. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 21, and wherein the  
2 program code is further configured to cause the processor to cause a remote entity to  
3 delete the first quantity of data at the remote entity in response to retrieving the first  
4 quantity of data.

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6        28. The computer-accessible storage media of claim 21, and wherein the  
7 program code is further configured to cause the processor to retrieve the first quantity of  
8 data from a remote entity by way of the Internet.

9

10        29. A data system, comprising:  
11            a remote entity configured to store data;  
12            a user computer coupled in data communication with the remote entity and  
13 configured to generate and store data within the remote entity; and  
14            a local entity coupled in data communication with the remote entity, the local  
15 entity configured to:  
16                wait for a predefined interval of time;  
17                retrieve a first quantity of data defining a retrieval quantity from the remote  
18 entity after the predefined interval of time;  
19                divide the predefined interval of time by the retrieval quantity to define a  
20 data creation period;  
21                multiply the data creation period by a predefined quantity to redefine the  
22 interval of time;  
23                wait for the redefined interval of time; and  
24                retrieve a second quantity of data from the remote entity after the  
25 redefined interval of time.

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27        30. The data system of claim 29, and wherein the local entity is coupled in  
28 data communication with the remote entity by way of the Internet.

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30        31. The data system of claim 29, and wherein the local entity is further  
31 configured to re-define the predefined quantity in response to an input.

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33        32. The data system of claim 29, and wherein the local entity is further  
34 configured to cause the remote entity to delete the first quantity of data stored within the  
35 remote entity after retrieving the first quantity of data.

1           33. The data system of claim 29, and wherein the remote entity is configured  
2 to delete the first quantity of data stored within the remote entity in response to retrieving  
3 the first quantity of data.

4

5           34. The data system of claim 29, and wherein the local entity is further  
6 configured to determine the predefined quantity as an optimum file retrieval count in  
7 accordance with a predefined optimization formula.

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9           35. The data system of claim 34, and wherein the local entity is further  
10 configured such that the predefined optimization formula is defined as:

11           optimum file retrieval count = ((optimum retrieval packet size – overhead) / file  
12 size).

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14           36. The data system of claim 29, and further comprising:  
15           another remote entity configured to store data;  
16           another user computer coupled in data communication with the other remote  
17 entity, the user computer configured to generate and store data within the other remote  
18 entity, and wherein the local entity is further configured to:

19           wait for another predefined interval of time;

20           retrieve a third quantity of data defining another retrieval quantity from the  
21 other remote entity after the other predefined interval of time;

22           divide the other predefined interval of time by the other retrieval quantity to  
23 define another data creation period;

24           multiply the other data creation period by another predefined quantity to  
25 redefine the other interval of time;

26           wait for the other redefined interval of time; and

27           retrieve a fourth quantity of data from the other remote entity after the  
28 other redefined interval of time.

1       37. A data handling system, comprising:  
2       remote means for generating a present quantity of data; and  
3       local means for:  
4               waiting for an interval of time corresponding to retrieving a prior quantity of  
5       data from the remote means; and  
6               retrieving the present quantity of data from the remote means after the  
7       interval of time.